Syllabus

WLF 421
Ecology and Management of Large Mammals
3 credits – Fall 2011

Instructor:  Kris Hundertmark
Office: 412 Irving I
Office hours: Open, except before class
Office phone: 474-7159
Email: kris.hundertmark@alaska.edu

Recommended text:

Other helpful texts:


A couple of dated yet still highly relevant books:


Course description: Identification, taxonomy, distribution, life history and ecology of North American large mammals. Exploration of roles of reproduction, predation, nutrition, habitat alteration, and competition in population dynamics of large mammals,
and management practices designed for conservation of habitats and populations. Prerequisites: BIOL 271, WLF 201.

**Course goals:** Students will develop an understanding of ecological principles and management considerations pertaining to large mammals, develop competency in interpreting and communicating research findings to peers and lay audiences, and enhance skills in communication and critical thinking.

**Instructional methods:** Course material will be presented via lectures, supplemented with guest speakers, student presentations and group discussions. Powerpoints will be posted on Blackboard shortly after they are presented in class.

**Exams:** There will be 2 mid-term exams and a final exam. The mid-term exams will not be comprehensive but the final may be. The exams will consist primarily of essay questions requiring synthesis of ideas and critical thinking. The final exam is scheduled for Thursday, December 16th from 8-10 AM.

**Supplemental Readings:** Readings from the primary literature will be assigned throughout the semester and will be discussed in class. I will lead some discussions and students will lead some. Students leading discussions will be assigned a paper to review and will critically examine the paper and its findings. All other students will read the paper in advance of class and will come to class with 2 discussion questions typed out on paper. Each student will ask at least one of those questions during the discussion and the person leading the discussion will address it. Questions will be handed in at the end of class for credit.

**Grading:**

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<td>Discussions</td>
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**Grading scheme:**

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**Course policies:**

- Students are expected to attend all classes.
- I expect students to work independently on class assignments.
- Please silence your cell phones in class.
Lecture topics:

Taxonomy and distribution
Behavior
Population dynamics
Population regulation & carrying capacity
Predation
Census techniques and harvest management
Nutritional ecology, competition and facilitation in herbivore communities
Sexual segregation
Game ranching
Trophy hunting
Others?

Lecture schedule: TBD

Academic dishonesty: The UAF Student Code of Conduct is presented online at www.uaf.edu/catalog/catalog_08-09/academics/regs3.html#Student_Conduct and in the 2008-09 UAF Catalog. You will be expected to abide by that code. No collaboration among students will be allowed on exams and quizzes. Collaboration on projects will be permitted only to the extent I describe. Copying or paraphrasing another student’s writing is a violation of the Student Code. Copying or paraphrasing published material without proper attribution is plagiarism and is a serious academic offense. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, see the following web page or see me.

http://library.uaf.edu/ls101-plagiarism

Evidence of academic dishonesty will be presented to the UAF Director of Judicial Services and may result in an F for the course and/or expulsion from the University.

Disabilities: If you have a learning disability, please inform me before the end of the second week of class. If you have not already contacted the UAF Center for Health and Counseling (474-7043; TTY 474-7045) to document your disability, please do so at your earliest opportunity. They will work with me to provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations.